

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: MEXICAN BROWN HEROIN DATA FOR THE MEXICAN
ATTORNEY GENERAL

1. THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES PREPARED BY DEA INTELLIGENCE ARE
DERIVED FROM THE LATEST MEXICAN BROWN HEROIN STUDIES AND
REFLECT THE BEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON THE BROWN HEROIN
SITUATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

2.
ESTIMATED US CONSUMPTION ANNUALLY. BASED ON A NIDA ESTIMATE
OF 450,000 "DAILY CHRONIC USERS OF HEROIN IN THE US WHO
ARE NOT IN TREATMENT PROGRAMS," THE NET US SUPPLY OF HEROIN
ORIGINATING IN MEXICO IS 5.175 METRIC TONS.

3. ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE OF US CONSUMPTION WHICH ORIGINATES
IN MEXICO OR TRANSITS MEXICO, WITH CURRENT TRENDS OVER
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RECENT TIME PERIOD (PERHAPS TWO YEARS). ONE DEA STATISTICAL
METHOD, THE SIGNATURE PROGRAM, DESCRIBES THE PERCENTAGE OF
BROWN HEROIN ON THE US MARKET AS RISING. ACCORDING TO
THIS METHOD BROWN HEROIN ACCOUNTED FOR 89 OF THE MARKET IN
1975. IN 1976 BROWN HEROIN ACCOUNTED FOR 91 OF THE MARKET
AND IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1977 BROWN HEROIN ACCOUNTED
FOR 93 OF THE MARKET. THESE FIGURES SHOW AN UPWARD TREND

IN THE PERCENTAGE OF BROWN HEROIN. HOWEVER OTHER STATISTICS DO NOT FULLY SUPPORT THIS ESTIMATE. THE AMOUNT OF PURE BROWN HEROIN REMOVED FROM THE HEROIN MARKET DURING THE FIRST THIRD OF 1977 WAS A THREE YEAR LOW. THIS MAY INDICATE THAT MEXICAN BROWN HEROIN ACTUALLY ACCOUNTS FOR A DECREASING PERCENTAGE OF THE OVERALL MARKET IF SUFFICIENT DATA WERE AVAILABLE TO RESOLVE THE QUESTION.

4. RELATIONSHIP OF PRICE AND PURITY IN US MARKET OVER RECENT TIME PERIOD. IN GENERAL, AS THE PURITY OF THE GROSS SAMPLE OF HEROIN (PURE HEROIN PLUS DILUENTS) GOES DOWN THE PRICE OF THE PURE HEROIN IN THAT SAMPLE GOES UP. DURING THE RECENT TIME PERIOD (TWO QUARTERS OF CALENDAR YEAR 1975 TO ONE QUARTER OF CALENDAR YEAR 1977) THE PRICE PER MILLIGRAM OF PURE MEXICAN HEROIN HAS RISEN.

5. DATA ON SEIZURES WITHIN THE UNITED STATES IN LAST TWO YEARS. THERE HAS BEEN A SPORADIC DECLINE IN THE TOTAL PURE BROWN HEROIN SEIZED IN THE US DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS. DURING NOVEMBER 1975 A TOTAL OF 13.794 KGS. OF PURE BROWN HEROIN WAS COLLECTED, DURING APRIL 1977 A TOTAL OF .930 KGS. OF PURE BROWN HEROIN WAS COLLECTED. THE LAST TWO YEARS HAVE SEEN A GENERAL DECLINE IN THE PURITY OF MEXICAN HEROIN FROM APPROXIMATELY 17-20 TO A LOW IN APRIL OF 5.8 .

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6. SUGGEST REGION AND EMBASSY REVIEW ABOVE DATA IN LIGHT OF LOCAL INTELLIGENCE CONCLUSIONS BEFORE PASSING THE REPORT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

7. ADDITIONAL DATA AS REQUESTED ON COCAINE IS UNDER PREPARATION. WE REGRET THE DELAY. VANCE

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